

Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group
Meeting Notes
August 1, 2016

Attendees: Jenny Raitt (Planning), Ann LeRoy (MPIC), Pete Howard (MPIC), George Parsons (Hist. Society), Steve Makowka (Hist. Districts Comm.), JoAnn Robinson (Hist. Comm), Laura Wiener (Planning)

Review of Group Purpose: Implementation of recommendations of the Master Plan. Laura will send a list of all implementation steps regarding Historic and Cultural resource areas.

What's missing from Master Plan: Inventory of grants that have been obtained in recent past. Laura will gather materials, including grant application to CPA Committee from last year (unfunded).

Issues and Opportunities:

- Jenny reported on progress of Arlington Cultural Plan and efforts to get a state designation as a Cultural District for Mass. Ave. to include East Arlington and Arlington Center and the Minuteman Bikeway, and the many town-wide organizations working together on cultural issues.
- CPA funding is an opportunity.
- Historical Commission has no partner at Town Hall, resulting in poor coordination with other relevant boards, especially permitting boards and staff
- Historic Inventory has errors, and is incomplete. Has not been updated for decades.
- Many of Town's historic properties are in need of repair. Many repairs are in planning stage, and some have begun (i.e. Jefferson Cutter House).
- Historic houses on large lots are at risk
- Town should create a master list of all Preservation Restrictions in Town

Priorities and next steps:

- Update inventory
- Create a strategy or plan. Newton may have a good example of a "Preservation Plan".
- Designate a Town entity for coordination.
- Create procedures for early notification of proposed changes to historic properties.

MHC Survey and Planning Grant opportunity: 2017 deadlines not yet released. 2016 deadline was Nov. 16 for pre-application/letter of intent. Apply for CPA to match grant. Possible topics are:

- (1) Complete a cultural resource inventory (update existing)
- (2) Develop a community-wide preservation plan.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 pm